

# BROWN COUNTY

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

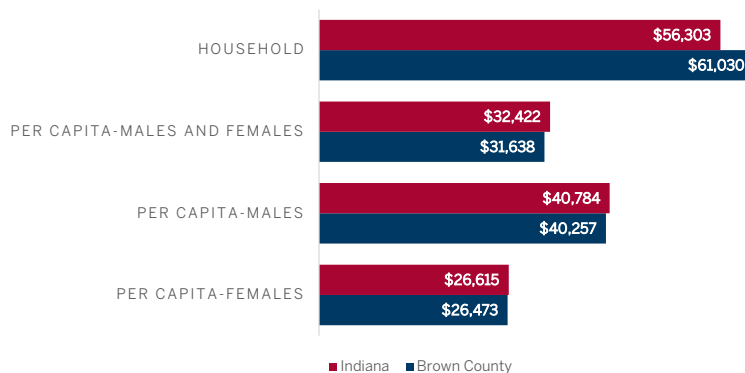
Facts, figures, and things to know about the people and places in Brown County.

### Household Demographics

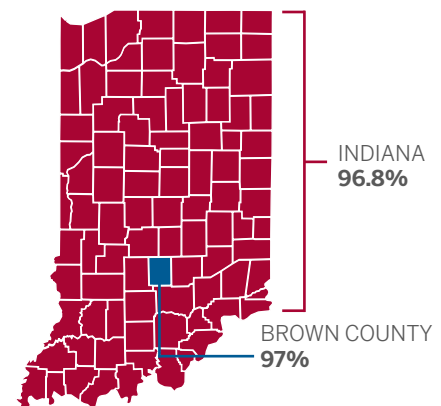
According to population estimates, there are 15,064 people who live in Brown County.<sup>1</sup>

The median household income for Brown County is approximately \$4,700 higher than the state average.<sup>2</sup> There is a notable wage disparity between women and men in the county, with women earning about \$13,800 less annually than men on average.<sup>3</sup> The employment rate for Brown County is slightly higher than the state average, with the vast majority of Brown County residents being employed.<sup>4</sup>

#### MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME FOR NON-DISABLED ADULTS

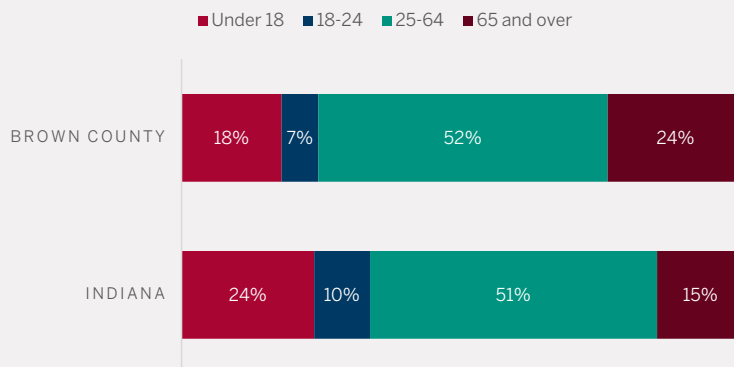


#### ADULTS EMPLOYED



The median age for Brown County is about 12 years higher than the state's median age. Older individuals make up a large percentage of the population of Brown County, with half of the population being above the age of 50 and nearly one-quarter of residents being 65 years or older. There is a lower percentage of youth and young adults living in Brown County compared to the rest of the state.<sup>5</sup>

#### PERCENT OF POPULATION



#### MEDIAN AGE

**37.7**  
INDIANA

**50**  
BROWN COUNTY



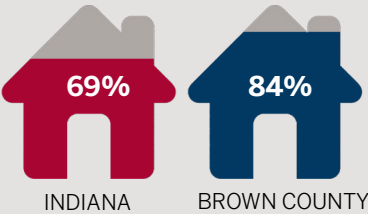
#### BEAN BLOSSOM BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL :

The Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival was created by legendary bluegrass artist Bill Monroe, and the festival has been going on for over 50 years. The festival takes place over an eight-day period in June with daily events and live performances from more than 70 bluegrass bands. The festival is one of the most popular bluegrass festivals in the nation and continues to grow and expand each year, while still remaining true to Bill Monroe's vision and Brown County values.<sup>6</sup>

# Housing

Residents of Brown County are much more likely to own the home that they live in compared to the average Hoosier, and the median value of owner-occupied units is more than \$50,000 higher than the state median. The average rent payment in Brown County is about the same as the state average.<sup>7</sup> While less than half of the homes in Brown County are 40 years or older and only about 10 percent are valued at less than \$100,000, nearly 30 percent of housing units are vacant.<sup>8</sup> There are few multi-family housing options available for residents of Brown County.<sup>9</sup>

## PERCENT OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS



## MEDIAN RENT PAYMENT

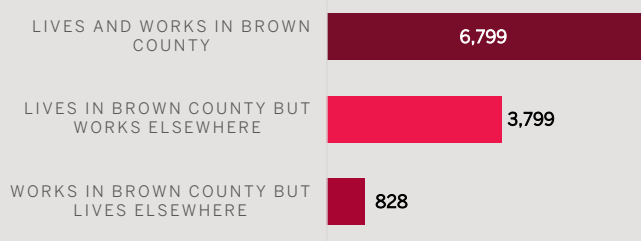


## HOUSING CHALLENGES

BUILT PRIOR TO 1980	44.1%
HOUSES VALUED AT LESS THAN 100K	9.6%
MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING	6.2%
VACANT HOUSING UNITS	28.7%

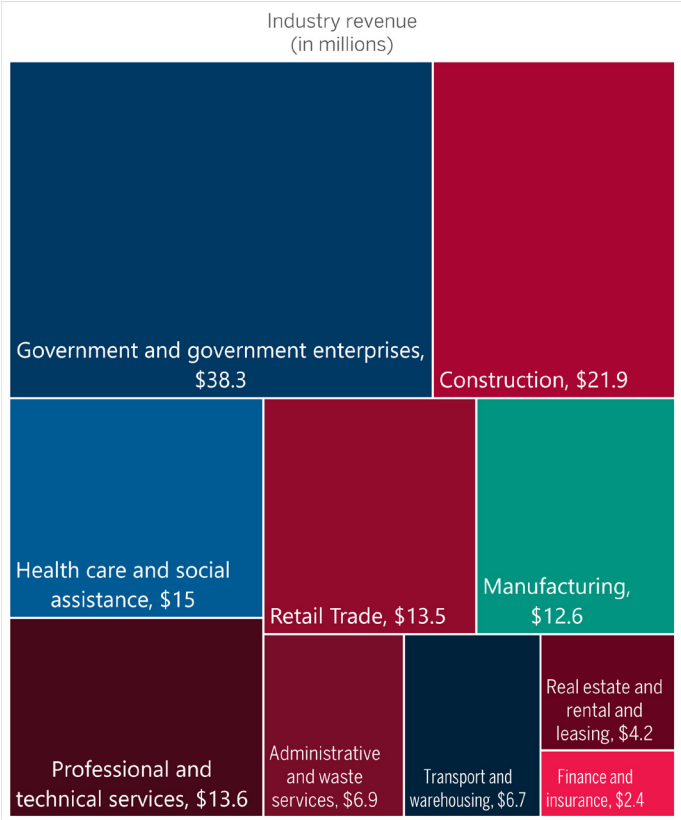
## COMMUTING

While the majority of Brown County workers both work and live in their county of residence, about one-third of Brown County residents commute outside of the county for work. About 830 individuals live outside of Brown County but commute in for work, a number that has risen from 2018 to 2019.<sup>10</sup>



# Industry

The top three industries in Brown County in terms of annual earnings are Construction, Accomodation and Food Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance.<sup>11</sup> The top three major employers in the county are Brown County Health and Living, Brown County High School, and Abe Martin Lodge, all located in Nashville.<sup>12</sup>



# Technology

Access to the internet provides communities with a number of opportunities, from educational tools, to telemedicine, to the ability for local businesses to sell to people around the world. High speed broadband (25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) allows for the most effective use of new technology that links rural communities to resources worldwide.<sup>13</sup> Many Brown County residents have better internet access than the rest of the state with internet speeds far above the definition of broadband internet, however, 17 percent of households have no internet access.<sup>14</sup>

## MEDIAN DOWNLOAD ↑ UPLOAD SPEED (MBPS)



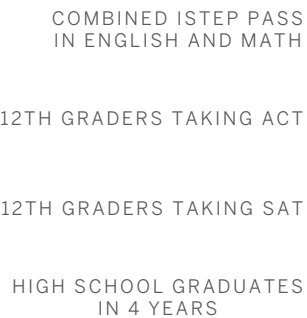
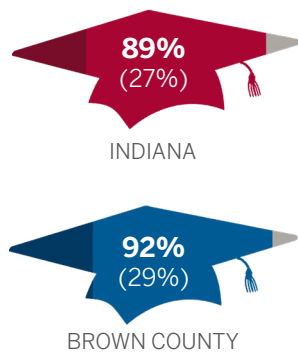
## PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO INTERNET ACCESS



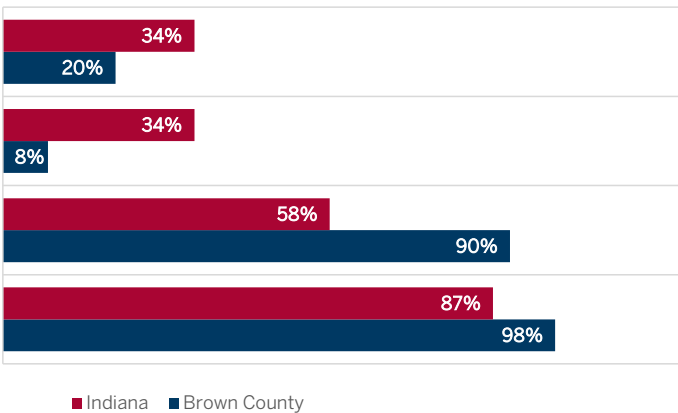
# Educational Attainment

Brown County is home to one public school corporation: Brown County School Corporation. Over 90 percent of Brown County residents aged 25 years or older are high school graduates, and more than one-quarter have a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>15</sup> Nearly all high school graduates complete their degree in four years, exceeding the state rate by almost 10 percent.<sup>16</sup> In comparison to the rest of the state, students in Brown County are less likely to pass the ISTEP 10th grade math and language arts exams combined.<sup>17</sup> However, 12th grade students in Brown County are much more likely to take the SAT in comparison to other Indiana 12th grade students.<sup>18</sup>

## % WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (BACHELOR'S DEGREE)



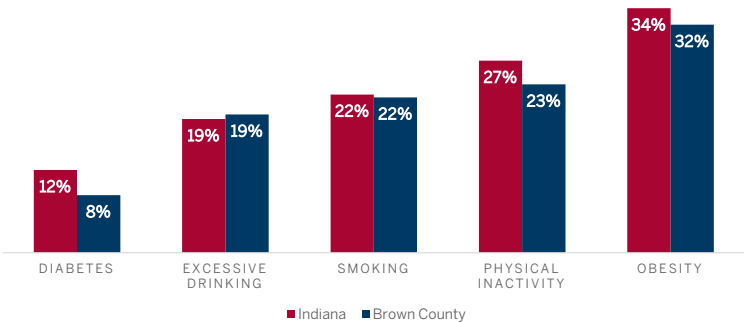
## COLLEGE READINESS



# Health

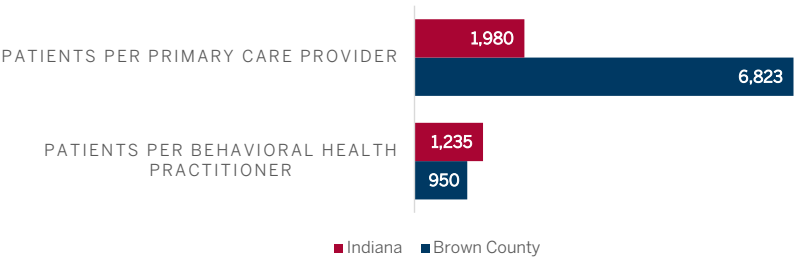
Health indicators for Brown County suggest that residents are just as likely to smoke and drink excessively as the average Hoosier.<sup>19</sup> Slightly less than one-quarter of Brown County residents report being physically inactive, and 32 percent of residents are classified as obese.<sup>20</sup> While obesity rates in Brown County are slightly lower than the state average, increasing awareness of and access to exercise opportunities can help lower the rates of chronic diseases and improve the quality of life for many residents in Brown County.

## HEALTH RISK FACTORS



# Health Provider Shortages

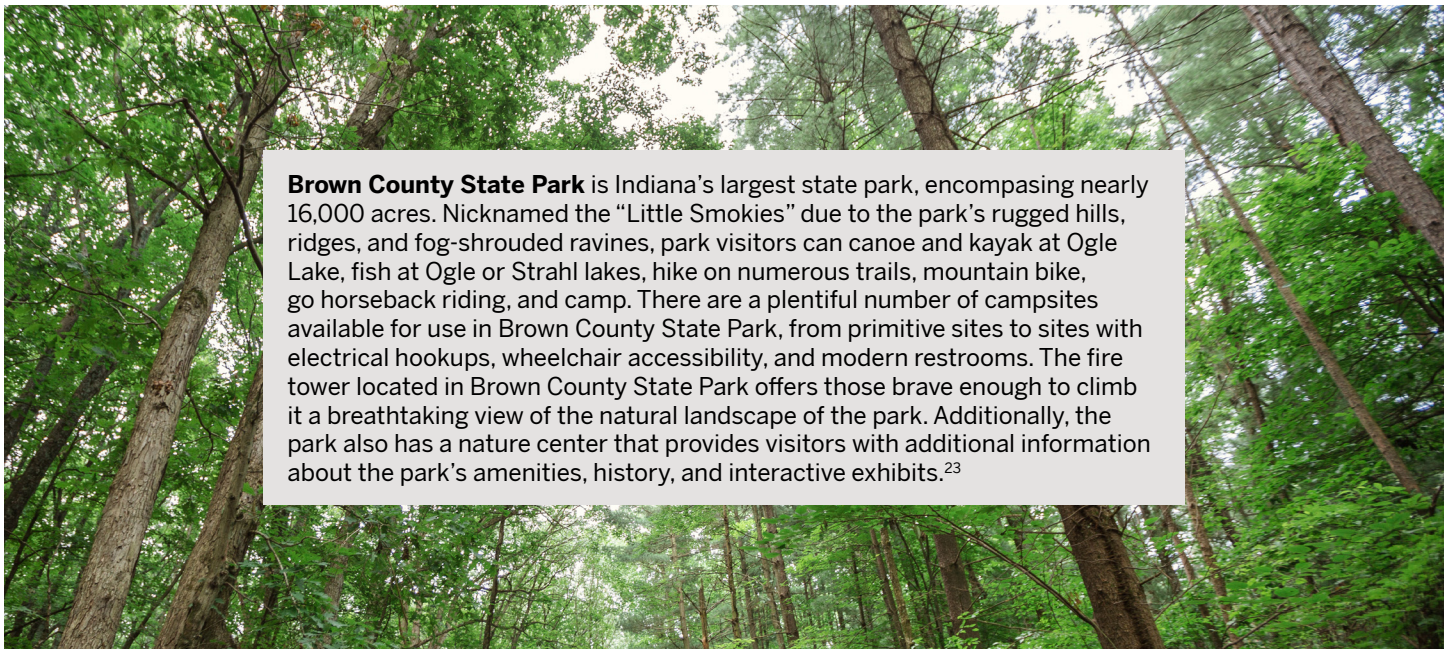
## NUMBER OF PATIENTS PER PROVIDER



Medical providers can also help address issues such as diabetes and obesity and provide assistance to those struggling with mental health and substance use—issues currently facing many Hoosiers. One struggle facing Brown County residents is access to primary care. In Brown County, there is only one primary care physician available per more than 6,800 county residents.<sup>21</sup> This figure is nearly 3.5 times the number of people per primary care provider across the entire state of Indiana. In comparison to the rest of the state, Brown County does have a slightly higher proportion of behavioral health practitioners available, with one behavioral health practitioner per 950 county residents.<sup>22</sup>



# Highlights



**Brown County State Park** is Indiana's largest state park, encompassing nearly 16,000 acres. Nicknamed the "Little Smokies" due to the park's rugged hills, ridges, and fog-shrouded ravines, park visitors can canoe and kayak at Ogle Lake, fish at Ogle or Strahl lakes, hike on numerous trails, mountain bike, go horseback riding, and camp. There are a plentiful number of campsites available for use in Brown County State Park, from primitive sites to sites with electrical hookups, wheelchair accessibility, and modern restrooms. The fire tower located in Brown County State Park offers those brave enough to climb it a breathtaking view of the natural landscape of the park. Additionally, the park also has a nature center that provides visitors with additional information about the park's amenities, history, and interactive exhibits.<sup>23</sup>

**The Indiana Raptor Center** is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to assisting injured and orphaned wild birds and nurturing them back to health so they can safely return to the wild. The Raptor Center welcomes visitors age six and older to come and learn about the great birds of prey and educates visitors on how to help contribute to the preservation of hawks, eagles, owls, falcons, and vultures. The Raptor Center puts on small educational shows with the birds and offers visitors a unique educational experience to view birds of prey first-hand, showing how the center works to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned or injured birds of prey.<sup>24</sup>



For more than a century, many artists and artisans have called Brown County home, including the American impressionist painter T. C. Steele. **The T. C. Steele State Historic Site** in Nashville encompasses over 200 sprawling acres, including the painter's hilltop home built in 1907, a rotation of Steele's original work, 3+ miles of trails, a state-designated nature preserve, and the Singing Winds Visitor Center. Visitors can enjoy the grounds and gardens on their own, take guided tours of the artist's studio and home, and even set up a space to paint the views of scenic Brown County.<sup>25</sup>

## Sources

<sup>1,2,3,5,7,8,9,15</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.; <sup>4</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019 Local Area Unemployment Statistics.; <sup>6</sup>Bill Monroe's Music Park & Campground. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://www.billmonroemusicpark.com>; <sup>10</sup>Indiana Business Research Center, 2019 Annual Commuting Trends.; <sup>11</sup>U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019 Employment and Earnings by Industry.; <sup>12</sup>Hoosiers by the Numbers: Major Employers for Brown County.; <sup>13</sup>Purdue University Center for Regional Development, Rural Indiana Stats, 2017 Digital Divide Index.; <sup>14</sup>Indicators of Broadband Need, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 2021; <sup>16</sup>Indiana Department of Education, 2019 Public School Graduates and Graduation Rates.; <sup>17</sup>Indiana Youth Institute, 2017 County Aggregates of Indiana Department of Education ISTEP Pass Rates.; <sup>18</sup>Indiana Youth Institute, 2016 County Aggregates of Indiana Department of Education ACT and SAT rates.; <sup>19,20</sup>University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2021 County Health Rankings.; <sup>21</sup>Bowen Health Workforce Information Portal, 2018 Supply, Characteristics, and Distribution of Physicians.; <sup>22</sup>Bowen Health Workforce Information Portal, 2018 Supply, Characteristics, and Distribution of Psychologists and Behavioral Health Professionals.; <sup>23</sup>Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Brown County State Park. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2988.htm>; <sup>24</sup>Indiana Raptor Center. (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://indianaraptorcenter.com>; <sup>25</sup>Friends of T.C. Steele. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://tcsteele.org>.



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